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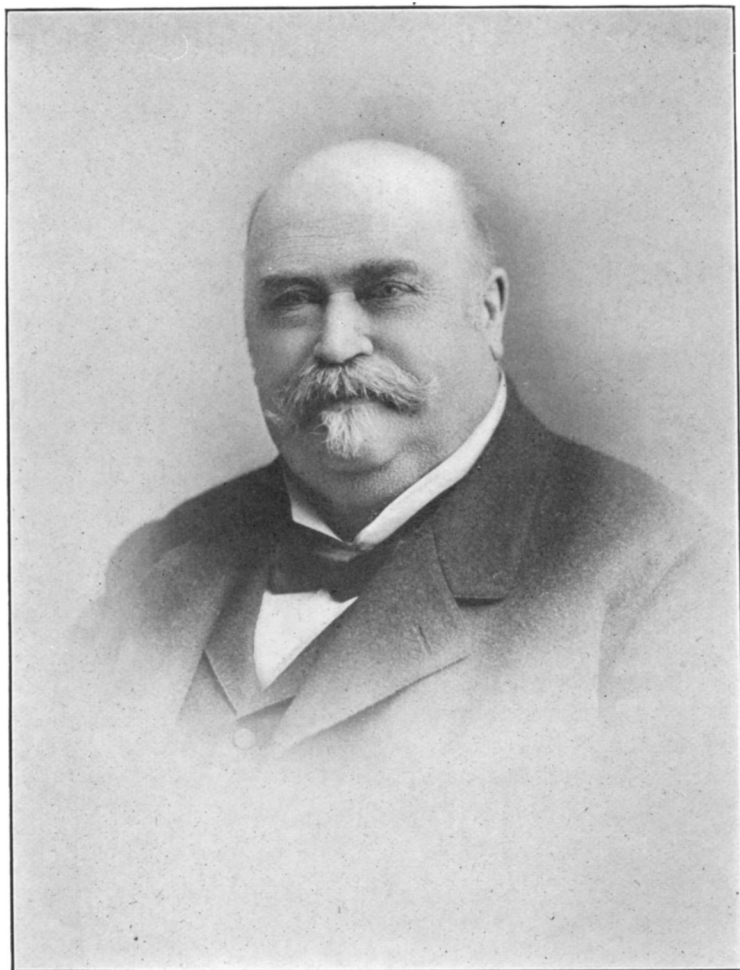
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Faithfully yours,
Clark E. Carr.

**CLARK E. CARR, LATE HONORARY PRESIDENT OF
THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

A Tribute by George A. Lawrence.

"I was born in a beautiful valley of Western New York, more beautiful to me than any other I have ever seen." Such are the opening words of "The Illini." The Day and Generation of its author was spent, and his full career terminated in Illinois.

Clark Ezran Carr, of Galesburg, Illinois, Honorary President of the Illinois State Historical Society and its honored and efficient President from 1909 to 1913, after a lingering illness, due to the infirmities of age, peacefully passed away on the evening of February 28, 1919.

His death calls for appropriate action by this Society, which he had so long, so well and so ably served. Not only by reason of that service, however, but by reason of the likewise substantial fact that in his death the State of Illinois has lost one of its most distinguished citizens, who for more than sixty years has been intimately associated with its progress and prosperity along many lines.

It has been given to but few men in the history of the State to have lived a career, embracing so many avenues of activity, in all of which he was especially prominent, efficient and successful.

An epitome of his life, necessarily briefly stated, will furnish a faint idea of the scope of his activities.

Clark E. Carr was born at Boston Corners, Erie County, N. Y., on May 20th, 1836, and had he lived until May 20, 1919, would have been eighty-three years of age. He was the son of Clark Merwin Carr and Delia Ann (Torrey) Carr. His mother died when he was but three years of age and when he was five years old his father married Fannie LeYaw, who became a devoted and affectionate mother to him and his brothers.

The family came West around the Lakes in March, 1850, landing in Chicago. Here teams were purchased and they made their journey in Prairie schooners to Henry County, Illinois, locating on a farm near Cambridge. In the autumn of 1851 they moved to Galesburg, where he maintained his residence from that time until his death.

Colonel Carr's paternal ancestry reaches back to Caleb Carr, former Colonial Governor of Rhode Island, and to Rev. John Clark, who was driven out of the Massachusetts Colony for preaching the doctrines of the Baptist Church. Like Roger Williams, John Clark went to Rhode Island, (then a wilderness) and afterwards became its Governor. His greatgrandmother was a Miss Clark, descended from Governor John Clark, and "Clark" had been the Christian name of his grandfather, his father, of himself, and of the son who died just upon reaching his maturity.

His father, Clark M. Carr, was a man of unusual ability, interested in public affairs and with high ideals for his family. He provided early educational advantages for them, of the better sort, and the son attended the District School of the village until he was eleven years of age. He then went to Springfield Academy, Erie County, N. Y., where he remained two years. At fourteen he arrived at Galesburg; entered Knox Academy and afterwards the Collegiate Department of Knox College, leaving at the end of his Sophomore year, to commence the study of law. After a year at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Law School, he subsequently entered the Albany Law School, where he graduated in 1857, with the Degree of LL.B. Returning to Galesburg he entered into the active practice of law, which was interrupted after a few years by his advent into active politics, and official life.

Colonel Carr came upon the field of action at a time when great movements were taking shape, regarding both personal and national destiny. Hardly more than a lad, he took part in the Fremont Campaign of 1856; became vitally interested in and closely followed the Lincoln-Douglas Debates. While an admirer of Douglas, he became the ardent champion and follower of Lincoln and took an active part in the Presidential campaign of 1860, in his behalf.

He had great gifts as a public speaker and had sedulously cultivated them under great teachers at the Albany Law School.

At the beginning of the War, he was appointed on the staff of Governor Yates, with the rank of Colonel, and throughout the war was engaged in the organization of regiments; in visiting the army to ascertain and improve its condition, and in bringing the sick and wounded home.

In 1863, he spoke at a mass meeting in Chicago, held for the purpose of sustaining Lincoln in the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, and his great speech from the Court House steps in Chicago at that time gave him a wide reputation as a finished and convincing orator.

His four brothers all filled important positions in the Army of the Republic. The splendid career of General Eugene A. Carr is known to everyone. Byron O. Carr attained the rank of General in the Volunteer Army. Rev. H. M. Carr, D.D., served throughout the war with the rank of Chaplain, while the younger brother, George P. Carr, arose to the rank of Captain.

Colonel Carr was a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Baltimore, in 1864, and was a delegate at large in 1884, to the National Convention which nominated Blaine and Logan; and it may be said in passing that he attended every National Convention of the Republican Party for more than fifty years.

In 1861, President Lincoln appointed him Post Master of Galesburg, a position which he filled with rare ability until 1885.

In 1889, he was appointed by President Harrison, Minister Resident and Counsel General to Denmark, and while a conference of Counsel Generals (of which he was a member) was in session at Paris, he received a notice of his promotion, to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary, in which position he represented our country in that brilliant Court for four years.

I think it may well be said that no member of the Diplomatic Corps of the United States was ever more cordially received and intimately treated by the Court, to which he was delegated, than was Colonel Carr. He had all the graces of the polished gentleman and at the same time the frank com-

raderie so natural to him that it admitted him to the closest relationship of friendship, while never giving offense.

Negotiations for the acquisition of the Danish West India Islands were begun while he held the position of Ambassador, and could have been successfully completed at that time, but public sentiment in America was not yet ripe for their taking over, which has since been accomplished.

His championship of maize, and the introduction of American meats into Europe, led to his election as President of the American Maize propaganda, and in further recognition of this work, in 1900 he was appointed to organize the famous corn kitchen at the Paris Exposition, with the features and success of which the world is familiar.

Perhaps one of the crowning services of his life was rendered as Commissioner of the State of Illinois for the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg, to which he was appointed in 1863, and he was the last survivor of that distinguished body of men. He sat upon the platform at its dedication, very close to President Lincoln and drank in every word of the Gettysburg address. He was among the first to appreciate that greatest speech that ever fell from human lips; he did not need to see it in print, for it was graven upon his memory. It became a passion with him, and perhaps more to him than to any other man we are indebted to the universal knowledge and appreciation of it the world possesses today. The little book, "Lincoln at Gettysburg", published in 1906, contains material of world wide interest, to be found nowhere else.

Other public posts of responsibility and trust undertaken by this man were many: Illinois Commissioner for the Omaha Exposition in 1898; Trustee and member of the Executive Committee of Knox College, since 1881; Director of the Galesburg Public Library Association from 1898 until his death; President of the Knox County Historical Society; President of the Illinois State Historical Society from 1909 to 1913; and Honorary President of the Illinois State Historical Society at the time of his death.

He had spoken for the Republican party in nearly every Northern State in every Republican National Campaign since 1856.

You will recall the custom of Henry C. Bowen, Editor of the "NEW YORK INDEPENDENT", to celebrate Independence Day at his beautiful home at Woodstock, Conn. Year after year were invited the most distinguished orators of the country to take part on the program there held, which became of national importance.

On the Fourth of July, 1887, in response to an invitation to take part in the exercises, Colonel Carr delivered his great address on "The Life and Character of John A. Logan," which published in full in the "New York Independent" gave him a national reputation as an orator and historian of the first rank.

It will be interesting to note, as also showing a side light upon his ability, that in the published account in the "Independent" of date July 7, 1887, the program shows that the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" was sung by the vast audience there assembled, led by Colonel Clark E. Carr.

The closing words of this great oration may well be quoted here, as they concern another great son of Illinois, of whom we are justly proud:

"From time immemorial, men have vied with each other in commemorating the achievements of the brave. Statues and towers and arches, and great edifices, wonders of art, have been erected to their memory. The sublime epic of Homer, recounting their deeds of valor, is older than any monument of granite, of brass, or of marble, and will be read when those that are now being builded shall have crumbled to dust. The eloquence of Pericles and Lincoln, in honor of brave men, will go forever ringing down the ages; but no other man ever lightened the burdens, supported the tottering limbs, and assuaged the griefs of so many worn and weary and wounded patriot heroes as did John A. Logan."

Clark E. Carr's name will ever be connected with the prosperity of Galesburg, Illinois, his home, through his efforts to induce the Santa Fe Railroad to build its Chicago line through Galesburg, instead of following a line, practically decided upon, about twelve miles south of that city. Through the efforts of citizens, headed by Colonel Carr, the Company was induced to prospect a line through Galesburg, which was finally adopted, under conditions involving personal subscription and personal financial responsibility, which he, in connection with other

citizens of Galesburg, gladly and successfully met. The result was, as prophesied by him, in his letter to President Strong of the Santa Fe System: "They would find a town of about 15,000 people, which with the added impulse the coming of the Santa Fe would give it, would make certain a town of twenty-five thousand people," which has been more than justified.

The foregoing is but a part of the civic and political activities of Colonel Carr, and briefly stated, as they are known to all.

Colonel Carr was married on December 31, 1873, to Grace Mills, only daughter of the Honorable Henry A. Mills of Mount Carroll, Illinois. One daughter, the wife of Brigadier General William P. Jackson, one granddaughter, Margaret Jackson, and his widow survive him. An only son, Clark Mills Carr, born on March 16, 1878, served with credit during the War with Spain, in the 9th Illinois Regiment Infantry. He later met an accidental death by drowning in the Northwest.

In his public career, before mentioned, reference might be made to his candidacy in the 70's for the nomination to Congress. In 1880 he was candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor, and again in 1888, having a strong following in both conventions.

In 1887 he was candidate for the caucus nomination of his party for United States Senate and had the unanimous and hearty support of his own county and senatorial district. While failing in achieving these honorable ambitions, reverses never embittered Colonel Carr, nor caused him to swerve in his party allegiance, but it did give him an intimate relation with the politics of the State and a wide acquaintance with its men of public affairs. His whole experience and later promise brought him in contact with the great men of the State and of the Nation; and no man in Illinois had a more comprehensive knowledge of the State's political history, or could treat of its men and measures with greater charm.

A natural orator, he was at the same time an accomplished elocutionist, and could not only repeat in words the great speeches of men and the stirring lines of actors, but could accurately reproduce them in tone and expression. The thorough knowledge of men and history of his time, which he possessed, was a very valuable asset in the work of his closing years, along literary lines, which I now approach.

His retirement from public life did not mean for him a life of ease and pleasure. Without communicating his ambitions to his friends, at the outset, he began putting into permanent literary form his recollections and reminiscences. His first book, "The Illini", (the manuscript prepared in his own handwriting) was practically finished before it was submitted for criticism or suggestion, to even his closest friends. It treated in the pleasant form of fiction of the development of Illinois, and the stirring events that preceded the Rebellion. Its dominant character had been a member of the Galesburg Colony in the early days of the Under-Ground Railroad, and many of the people prominent in the development and growth of the State were interwoven in this most pleasing romance, which achieved a distinguished literary success and has passed through fifteen editions, still finding ready sale.

Following this was the "Life of Stephen A. Douglas," which is today the authoritative life of that great man, and commends itself to every impartial historian.

In "My Day and Generation" are preserved very many interesting sketches of men found nowhere else, of permanent value to his "day and generation" and to succeeding generations, all drawn from his prolific memory and embellished by his felicitous expression.

"Lincoln at Gettysburg" I have already referred to, as perhaps having accomplished as much as any other one thing in the re-awakening and quickening of interest in the life of that great statesman, while the history of the coming of the Atchison & Santa Fe Railroad and of the Postal Railway Service, though of minor and to some extent local importance, are still of great historical value.

His activities in promoting the memory of Lincoln and deepening the public's appreciation of him, were noteworthy. He was especially interested in the celebration of the Lincoln-Douglas debates throughout Illinois, at the various points at which they were held, and succeeded in assembling the great orators and statesmen of the country to give prominence to such celebrations. Notably at the celebrations under the auspices of Knox College at Galesburg, Illinois, it was his personal influence that procured Chauncey M. Depew, Governor John M.

Palmer and Mr. Robert T. Lincoln as speakers upon that occasion.

It is impossible in the brief time permitted here, to do justice adequately to the public life of this man; for he was a man. He played a man's part in the discussion of the grave questions preceding the War; a man's part when the Union was in danger, and was the last of that score of immortals who have dignified and glorified the name of Illinois, chief among whom was Abraham Lincoln! It was a brilliant galaxy of men, who were his co-workers and compatriots:—Stephen A. Douglas, Orville H. Browning, John Wentworth, Jonathan Blanchard, Lyman Trumbull, David Davis, John a Logan, John W. Bunn, Richard J. Oglesby, Newton Bateman, Norman B. Judd, John M. Palmer, Leonard Swett, Joseph Medill, Shelby M. Cullom, Richard Yates and Ulysses S. Grant! Of these names, (and there are others) only the one remains; the friend of Lincoln and the intimate associate of them all,—John W. Bunn, “the grand old man” of Springfield, (and may I say) the first citizen of Illinois!

I have attempted to give a brief outline only of the life and accomplished service of Colonel Carr, as the public knew him and as impartial history will measure and place him. I feel that this memorial would be incomplete to all of us here present, who personally knew and loved him, if I did not make special reference to him as a friend and co-worker and to the man as he was known and understood by those, who were in close relationship to him. I have spoken of his oratorical and literary ability, but his greatest charm lay in the fact that he made such constant use of them in every-day life that he shed about him and upon all who came in contact with him real enlightenment, and under the wizardry of his personal charm, palest prose became poetry; and mere music, a swelling symphony.

His tastes were all of the uplifting order. He loved music, art, literature in all its forms; whether in the printed page or when spoken in words. He knew intimately much of the world's best literature. His wonderful gift of memory enabled him to convey it to his friends and listeners, with all the freshness and fire of the original: a memory remarkable in its capacity and scope that would permit him to recite entire acts from Shakespeare with the impressiveness of a Booth or an

Irving: that could quote the "Elegy in a Country Churchyard" throughout, without hesitation; that treasured up the immortal words of statesmen, orators, and poets of all the ages and could reproduce them to our edification and delight.

Especially was he fond of sacred music, and the old hymns, all of which he knew by heart. He once said "there is more power and persuasion in 'Coronation' and in 'The Portuguese Hymn' than in the assembled volume of the most brilliant skeptics combined."

His library was a working library, and within its walls he was at his best. It was a veritable "sanctum sanctorum" and there he spent his declining years. Wide-awake to the present; interested in the progress of human events the world over; loyal, patriotic, apprehensive of his country's danger in these days of stress but resigned to the fact that his activities were of the past. It was there he sought and invited the companionship of those he loved.

His home was ever of the most hospitable sort. He was a host beyond compare. At his home, the most distinguished men and women of the day have gathered. On one occasion the President of the United States and his entire cabinet, with one exception, were guests beneath his hospitable roof.

He was the very soul of kindness, and beneath at times a brusque exterior, there beat a warm, sympathetic heart. I recall not so many years ago, when a faithful man servant was stricken with smallpox, and removed to the pest house, the close attention that he gave to see that everything possible was done for him. Dumb animals loved him, and for years a large deer hound was his constant companion. Were he out of the city, the faithful dog was inconsolable.

He was not a rich man in the sense of dollars. He had not given himself to large acquisitions, but he had achieved throughout his long life a remarkable culture, that while personal to himself, was of benefit to others in that his kindly nature placed it freely at their disposal and command.

He was a notable figure in any assembly. Did he spend the evening at the social club, his chair was sure to be surrounded by interested listeners, held there by the charm of his discourse and the overflow of his well filled mind. Emphatically of *this* generation, in that he was alive to all of its necessities, oppor-

tunities and requirements, yet it can be as truly said of him that he was a rare representative of the "old school gentleman." Choleric, if you please on occasion, yet ever dignified, courtly and benign, his memory will be cherished in Illinois as one of the "Men", the meaning of the word implied, and the verdict of Illinois, in passing upon his enrollment in that List of Honor will be "he has well served his 'Day and Generation.' "